

Introduction

SETHU BANDHANA TRUST

email: advmysore@gmail.com, Reg. No. 74/ 01-02. 80-G approved

Sethu Bandhana was initiated by a group of individuals and programmes were started in 2002 in Mysore to support children and youth in need support in the field of education.

For us, education means awareness, to make use of opportunities, hardwork, using the knowledge and skills to better ourselves and the communities we live in. We believed many of these goals could be achieved at low cost or no cost. Part of the retirement pension of trustees who were mostly retired persons was sufficient enough.

Our first aim was to put in efforts to help first-generation learners to pass SSLC. Over the years providing opportunities for higher education were also included and became a major work. SethuBandhana started with a total of five trustees

one physician [medical doctor],

one clinical psychologist,

one chartered accountant,

two retired scientists got together and registered as a charitable trust in the year 2001.

Soon we got income tax exemption under section 80(G)- All accounts and reports were maintained, transparent and available for all. No membership, no office bearers or posts or hierarchy, all persons including the trustees are volunteers. Any one who works for the Trust is a volunteer. Office was the same as the house address of one of the trustees.

Our plans and results achieved are given in our annual reports, mostly intangible benefits to society and therefore not quantifiable. Documentation is our weak point, we haven't been able to record

much. Many ambitious programmes could not be started or continued due to lack of committed manpower. We shun personal publicity. So lost out on some popularity or recognition. Wider communication of our work and programmes might have been beneficial for reaching our programmes to our target groups. To share our work done in 20 years and learning ideas used so far, is the idea behind this website.

Trust's Reach

Info for the curious and statistically minded Persons: [average numbers - per year] ;

Adults volunteering - 12 to- 15 - 30 to 500 hours per person per year

Adults reached - 20 to 50 per year - 2 hours to 50 hours per person per year

Children reached - 300 to 500 per year [4000 to 6000 total hours per year]

> 200 hours per year 10 to 12

100 to 200 hours per year 15 to 20

50 to 100 hours per year 20 to 50

10 to 50 hours per year 100

< 5 hours per year 200

Our programmes :

Encourage children to continue and excel in education was the main aim. It was done by total sponsorship of a few students per year, after they completed high school (SSLC).

Working with first generation college going children opened our eyes to problems other than economic (poverty) and social status. Ex. Making learning less of a burden, more of enjoyment.

Many methods were tried in willing schools, colleges, hostels with both positive and negative outcomes. In this website, we have categorized as

1. Education (teaching& learning)
2. Books - English made easy, Mathematics made friendly
3. Poetry – general, grammar, children, women, science, etc.
4. Programmes conducted
5. Reading material
6. Untested ideas

A FEW continuing Activities of the trust (2002 to 2020) :

EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP – ACADEMIC MONITORING

Our financial sponsorship used to include fees, books, stationery, instruments, bus pass, bus fare to SBT centres , cost of academic projects, educational trips organised by the college, etc, In short our financial assistance made sure that the student's academic expenses are taken care of by us.

Our academic monitoring is to help the sponsored students to cope up with their studies. At least once a month we look at the students' notebooks and reports if any.

ENABLING EDUCATION

Many students who had academically dropped out, failed, never been enrolled into school, discontinued at various stages were helped by our trust. SBT volunteers to seek out [contact, go to the addresses if available, ask through current students etc.] such students and pay the exam fees and encourage them to complete their education.[SSLC, PUC etc.].

VOLUNTARY WORK IN SCHOOLS

Most of the cases this was up to the extent of substitute teaching [in case of posting delays], extra help [to weaker students for tough subjects] , one-time use [such as co preparation for exhibitions, competitions etc.] . SBT values this kind of complementing and supplementing activities as means of helping students and continues to do these services.

FRESH-AIR EXPOSURE

Basically meant for hostels and orphanages this is a mixture of education, indoor and outdoor games, general knowledge and speaking English for the regular. Occasionally some persons just visit and get some 'counseling' which makes the whole program worthwhile.

There are a few highlights about SBT's financial and academic sponsorship:

1. We think that the blame for any underperformance by the candidate should be equally shared by us. This is because we claim to academically help including remedial teaching and guidance. Due to this reason a failed candidate gets more time and attention from SBT.
2. We do not assume that just getting good grades in the exam is sufficient. We would like the candidate to have other basic qualities of personality such as honesty, truthfulness, mutually helpful nature, etc.
3. We expect all the sponsored candidates to report to us on a regular basis. This is jocularly called by us as 'notebook checking' every week or at least once a month.
4. We worry about their future jobs or vocations. Readers of this report are welcome to share with us their ideas on how to achieve these aims effectively.

Our motto: all our services were free, without any commercial or other motives, done purely as our small contribution to the society we live in. We encourage our students to support people in their own lives to improve the quality of life around.

Points useful for other persons interested in this area of social work are given in the website.